

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
AID-05 IO-13 /084 W  
-----111867 211249Z /43  
R 200914Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4594

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, RP  
SUBJECT: FORMER CONGRESSMEN AND CON-CON DELEGATES  
- CRITICIZE ELECTION

1. THE INTERIM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ASSOCIATION, AN ORGANIZATION OF FORMER MEMBERS OF THE LAST PHILIPPINE CONGRESS AND DELEGATES TO THE 1971 CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, HAS RELEASED A STATEMENT CALLING THE INTERIM BATASANG PAMBANSA ELECTION A "FARCE WHICH TIGHTENS AUTHORITARIAN RULE" AND CHALLENGES MARCOS' CONTENTION THAT THE ELECTION IS A STEP TOWARDS NORMALIZATION. CONGRATULATING ITSELF AND THOSE OTHER OPPOSITION POLITICIANS WHO DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTION, THE STATEMENT ASSERTS IT IS "NOT IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST" FOR THE OPPOSITION TO PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES THAT LEGITIMIZE AUTHORITARIAN RULE.

2. AS EVIDENCE THAT THE ELECTIONS WERE FRAUDULENT, THE INTERIM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ASSOCIATION CITES A) THE "HISTORICAL PROPENSITY" OF FILIPINOS TO DESIRE A CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP EVERY FOUR OR SIX YEARS, B) THE TRADITIONAL SUPPORT THE OPPOSITION HAS RECEIVED IN METRO MANILA, AND C) THE DEFEAT OF ALL 21 LABAN CANDIDATES.  
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THE STATEMENT SUPPORTS THE LATTER CONTENTION WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS' STATEMENT THAT "NO ONE WILL BELIEVE US IF THE OPPOSITION DOESN'T GET ONE MAN INTO THE IBP" IN METRO MANILA. THE STATEMENT CITES WHAT IT CALLS "CREDIBLE REPORTS" OF MASSIVE FRAUD TO CHARACTERIZE THE ELECTIONS AS THE "MOST BRAZENLY FRAUDULENT POLL IN PHILIPPINE POLITICS."

3. MARCOS IS ALSO CHIDED FOR ARRESTING LABAN CANDIDATES AND SUPPORTERS AFTER PROMISING THAT NONE WOULD BE PENALIZED FOR WHAT THEY SAID DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN PERIOD. THESE ACTIONS, ACCORDING TO THE PAPER, "ILLUSTRATE THE FUTILITY OF DEMOCRATIC EXERCISES UNDER AUTHORITARIAN RULE." THE IBP IS ATTACKED, AS WELL, AS A BODY WITH NO LEGISLATIVE POWERS, COMPLETELY UNDER THE CONTROL OF MARCOS, AND AS A FINANCIALLY BURDENSOME ORNAMENT.

4. COMMENT: THE INTERIM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ASSOCIATION IS ASSOCIATED PRINCIPALLY WITH FORMER PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL, ITS HONORARY CHAIRMAN. MACAPAGAL HAS BEEN A VOCIFEROUS BUT INEFFECTIVE CRITIC OF THE MARCOS REGIME FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. STATEMENT BEING POUCHED TO EA/PHL. STULL

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
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